

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A handbag comprising:
  - a frame comprising:
    - (a) a bottom panel;
    - (b) a front section connected to the bottom panel, said front section having at least one open area;
    - (c) a back section connected to the bottom panel, said back section having at least one open area;
    - (d) two side sections, each connected to the bottom panel and to the front and back sections; and
    - (e) at least one handle connected to the frame for carrying the handbag; and
  - at least one insert comprising:
    - (a) a bottom panel; and
    - (b) at least two side walls that are connected to the bottom panel and have closed sides, such as to create a compartment with a top opening, wherein said top opening is closeable,

wherein said insert has a length, width and height that is similar to the length, width and height of the frame, such that the insert fits snugly within the frame, and wherein a portion of the insert is connectable to a portion of the frame to keep the insert within the frame during use.

2. The handbag according to claim 1 wherein the open areas of the front and back sections are rectangular cutouts such that the front and back areas consists of narrow strips along bottom and side areas of the front and back sections.

3. The handbag according to claim 1, wherein the frame is constructed of a stiff material that retains its shape.

4. The handbag according to claim 3, wherein the material is reinforced leather.

5. The handbag according to claim 1, wherein the insert is formed of a different material than the frame.

6. The handbag according to claim 5, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of leather, suede, plastic, silk, canvas, velvet, or other natural or synthetic fabrics.

7. The handbag according to claim 1, wherein there are two handles on the handbag and wherein the front and rear sections consist of narrow bands that extend along a bottom side of the front and back sections, and two vertical

straps that extend up from the narrow bands, said vertical straps connecting with the handles of the handbag.

8. The handbag according to claim 7, wherein the side sections extend only partially up the height of the handbag.

9. The handbag according to claim 7, wherein the straps are connected to the handles via buckles.

10. The handbag according to claim 7, wherein the insert has two loops on each of the front and rear sides, such that when the insert is placed within the frame, the handles are threaded through the loops before being connected to the straps, so that the insert is securely connected to the frame.

11. The handbag according to claim 10, wherein the loops are located along a top edge of the insert.

12. The handbag according to claim 1, wherein the insert is closeable via a flap that covers the openable top of the insert.